

2021 MARCH NEWSLETTER

2020 | HELENA MIDDLE SCHOOL | 2021



March Introduction

Hey Bobcats, Welcome to March! We have made it through almost a year of pandemic, so do yourself a favor and go do something nice for yourself. You deserve it and I am so proud of you. This month there is not a shortage of activities that you can do at HMS so let's get into it! First off, we have some awesome new content from our monthly Advice and Joke Columns (Pages 2 and 3) so make sure to check those out when you get the chance. Our featured book section is back again featuring our top picks from the library's sprawling collection of New Books, as well as bringing you the Take and Make Kit of the Month. You can find all of March's Featured Books and Take and Make Kit on Page 2. The Newsletter Group monthly poll is also back and this time our topic is book genres in celebration of National Reading Month. As you may know, March is not only National Reading Month but also Women's History Month! Women's History Month is yet another important event occurring in March and you can find both an article on it and National Reading Month on Page 4. And finally, the Newsletter Group has some very exciting news for all you artists out there! This month we are hosting an Art Competition. We know that writing isn't everybody's thing so we wanted to give HMS's artists a chance to shine in a competition of their own. The details on how to enter, when the submission deadline is, and prizes can all be found below. Remember Spring Break is March 29-April 2 so hang in there until then, and school goes back to 4 days a week on March 7th! Thank you for reading and I hope you enjoy this Newsletter! Wishing you a wonderful March, – Eva Skibicki

Introduction

March is here and this month there is a lot to look forward to at HMS! So sit back, grab a snack, and enjoy this month's Newsletter. Page 1

Student Polls

This month we are once again doing Student Polls and March's theme is book genres in observance of National Reading Month! Page 3

YRCA Announcements

This year's 2021 YRCA nominees are up and ready to be read and voted on so that you can tell us which book you feel is deserving of the award! Prizes, Time Frame, and Details about this annual occurrence can be found down below! Page 4

Advice Column/Art Competition

In March's advice column we will explore tips for handling turning in assignments on time - Page 2

This month the Newsletter Group is once again hosting a competition but this time for our artists instead! You can find all of the information down below on how to enter and participate! Page 2

Featured Titles and the Take and Make Kit of the Month

The library is constantly updating their New Books section and this month you can find the library's top March picks down below, as well as this month's featured Take and Make kit! Page 2

Womens History Month and National Reading Month

For a second month in a row the Newsletter brings you the history section! This month happens to be both Women's History Month and National Reading Month so scroll down to read about how these events came to be and why they are important! Page 4

Joke Column

Get your daily dose of laughter in for the day reading this month's March Jokes! Page 3

Featured New Titles and Take and Make Kit of the Month

As you may or may not know this month is National Reading Month! And don't worry if you haven't got anything to read, our library has got you covered! This month we feature 3 fabulous titles that can satisfy whatever your favorite genre is! Whether you like realistic fiction, biographies with some original stories mixed in, or Fantasy we highly suggest checking out this Month's featured books. Happy reading!

- Soldier Boy - Keely Hutton; afterword by Ricky Richard Anywar
The true story of Ricky Anywar who was kidnapped by Joseph Kony and forced to fight as a child soldier in the Ugandan Civil War. In this book we see details of his life as soldier, his struggles to escape, and as an adult working to rehabilitate other former child soldiers. Throughout the book we also get glimpses of a fictional story of a young boy named Samuel, also a child soldier, and how he faces the horrors of war.
- Redwall – Brian Jacques
When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.
- Clap When You Land – Elizabeth Acevedo
Sixteen-year-olds Camino Rios, of the Dominican Republic, and Yahaira Rios, of New York City, are devastated to learn of their father's death in a plane crash and stunned to learn of each other's existence. A novel in verse told in two voices.

Take and Make Kit of the Month: This month's featured Take and Make Kit is the Adafruit Circuit Playground Express Kits which features coding and circuitry activities. No matter what your level or experience with coding a circuitry this kit is so fun. Don't believe us? Come down to the library and check it out for yourself. We really hope you enjoy!

- Written by Eva Skibicki

Art Competition

Look out, Picasso! Here come some middle school artists! Helena Middle school is having an art competition for all the art lovers out there. Use whichever art medium you want: drawing, painting, sculpture, etc. The size limit for sculptures is 8 1/2 inches tall and 7 1/2 inches wide.

If you want to participate, you must submit your art by March 20. To submit your art, bring it to the library and give it to a librarian. The librarian will then put your art with the rest of the art pieces where it will be later be picked up for judging. Your art will be judged by our very own Mr. Kepler and Mrs. Smith. Your artwork must go off the prompts, and if it doesn't, your art will be returned for the time being until you have worked you piece somehow around the prompts. Abstract art is okay as long as you can explain how it fits the criteria and your thought processes! Make sure to title your piece and leave a description of what your art portrays and which prompt you have chosen (don't worry it doesn't need to be fancy) so that we can better understand what we are looking at! Now for the prizes, which I know is why any of you are even reading this. The prizes include a \$25 Costco Gift Card (courtesy of the HMS Student Council), a set of Prismacolor colored pencils (the best!) and your artwork will be featured in the next Newsletter (with your name, of course)! The runner up will also be given a shoutout in the Newsletter. Thank you for reading and here are your prompts:

Prompt #1: Best Day Ever (example: You got a new dog on your Best Day Ever, so you make a sculpture of your dog and title it "New Dog").

Prompt #2: Someone or something that makes you feel happy (example: Your dog, or your grandma, or pizza).

-Written By Lucy (Lucille) Uhl

Advice from Ellie

So, it's officially the 3rd quarter and lots of people (myself included) have been having a rough time getting their assignments turned in on time. I don't know about you, but I want to step things up this quarter and take things seriously when it comes to school. So, I'm going to share some things that have helped me turn my assignments in on time in the past.

First off; WRITE DOWN YOUR ASSIGNMENTS AT THE START OF THE WEEK! I promise this will almost certainly help you when it comes to keeping track of your assignments and when they're due. I talked about this in the previous column, and it really does help! Whether you use a planner, a Word doc, the Notes app on your phone, it seriously helps to write down your assignments at the beginning of each week.

Which brings me to the next tip; Check your teachers' weekly agenda's. Almost all the teachers here at HMS post their assignment plans at the end or start of the week. This is very helpful for seeing what day assignments need to be done and when they are due.

Also, stay on task when it comes to doing online school. Staying motivated and focused on school can be hard, but the sooner you get your online school done, the sooner you can do things you enjoy. Whether that is hanging out with friends, playing video games, watching Netflix, whatever! It's good to know you have the things you have to get done, done. Then you don't need to worry about making those assignments up later on.

Finally, if you have class meetings, go to them! I know tons of meetings every week can be stressful, but teachers work hard to get information out to you and meetings are great for checking in and learning how to do assignments.

I hope some of these tips will be helpful if you struggle with turning in assignments on time! -Written by Elinor Clancy

Womens History month is this month so scroll down to learn about its origin and significance to society today, as well as why it is celebrated and how its creation impacted people around the world.



Daylight Savings starts on Sunday March 14th at 2:00 AM so make sure to set your clocks an hour later on that night so that you won't be late for anything important.

Here are the jokes for the month of March!

Fair warning: We don't hold back with cheesy jokes, and we've decided this month that it is your turn to receive some of our best worst jokes. So, you're welcome.

This one is just *chefs kiss*

Q: Why did Cinderella get kicked off the baseball team?

A: Because she always ran away from the ball

I think I should tell dad jokes for a living. Here's another top-quality one.

Q: What always has 6 letters, sometimes has 9 letters, and never has 5 letters?

A: haha clever right? I know I'm the only one laughing but hey, I think I'm funny.

Alright that's all I've got for you this month, thank you for staying this long, and have an absolutely incredible March!

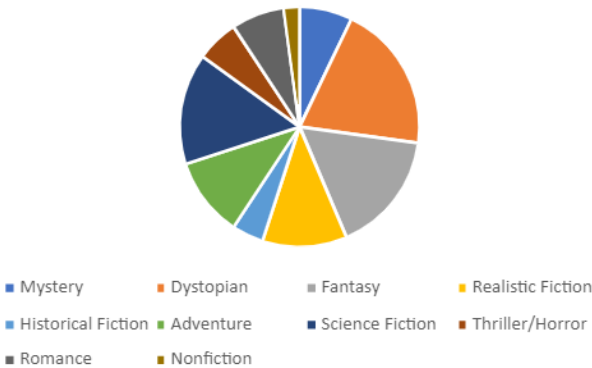
-Written by Eva Skibicki

Student Polls

Hi readers! This month's poll is a book genre poll! I'm so excited that you guys get to take this awesome poll! There are so many different genres and in this survey we get to see HMS's most liked genres. It doesn't matter what genre we like the most, but it is always fun to learn something about each other. Have a great March!

-Written by Vivian M.

HMS's Favorite Book Genres



Womens History Month

International Women's History Day is a time when we celebrate the amazing social, cultural, economic, and political achievements of women. It was started by the Socialist Party in the United States in 1909 and was observed in New York, but it wasn't until Clara Zetkin, a German feminist, pushed for it to be a holiday on February 18, 1910 that it really took off across Europe. Purple, green, and white are the colors of International Women's Day. Purple signifies justice and dignity, while Green symbolizes hope.

This day is aimed to help nations worldwide eliminate discrimination against women.

It is also focused on helping women gain full and equal participation in global development. You can celebrate this meaningful holiday on March 8. Women's History Month, however, wasn't fully indoctrinated as a national occurrence in the U.S. until the March of 1982, when the first week of March was nationally recognized as Women's History Week, and the movement took off from there. Women's History Month starts Tuesday, March 1 and ends on Thursday, March 31.

There are lots of great ways to learn more about this month's topic. I highly recommend that you go do some research on your own if you are interested. -Written by Ella Shultz

National Reading Month

National Reading Month is month dedicated to (I'm sure you couldn't guess) Reading! What a concept right? Though it is not nearly as significant or important as National Womens History Month, I still thought it would be an interesting article to include. National Reading Month was brought about to celebrate both reading and the life of famous children's author Dr. Seuss, who's birthday resides on March 2nd.

This event is dedicated to commending and encouraging reading and all of it's benefits both educationally and mentally throughout the US. We hope that you will celebrate with us by picking up a good book and allowing yourself to enjoy reading. If you are not much of a reader, it is okay, we all have preferences! However, there are millions of books around the world, and I hope one day you find one that brings you the joy that reading has the potential to. Have an incredible day Bobo and Happy Reading! -Written by Eva Skibicki

YRCA Announcements

Here are a few announcements about YRCA and the Newbery winner! First off, the Newbery winner is "When You Trap a Tiger" by Tae Keller. I am looking forward to reading this one! Now let's talk about YRCA! You have until April 3rd to read at least 3 books to be able to vote and get a critter byte! YRCA voting must be completed by May 31st. Here is the list of books for YRCA.

Junior

- Sweep: The Story of a Girl and her Monster by Jonathan Auxier (CDN)
- The Serpent's Secret by Sayantani DasGupta
- Granted by John David Anderson
- Small Spaces by Katherine Arden
- Arlo Finch in the Valley of Fire
- Wings of Fire. The Dragonet Prophecy by Tui T. Sutherland; adapted by Barry Deutsch and Rachel Swirsky (Graphic Novel)
- Positively Izzy by Terri Libenson (I read this one and I loved it!)
- Inkling by Kenneth Oppel (CDN)

Intermediate

- Impostors by Scott Westerfeld
- The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle by Leslie Connor
- No Fixed Address by Susin Nielsen-Fernlund (CDN)
- TBH: This is SO Awkward by Lisa Greenwald
- Ash Princess by Laura Sebastian
- City of Ghosts by Victoria Schwab
- Darius the Great is Not Okay by Adib Khorram
- The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo

Senior

- Sadie by Courtney Summers (CDN)
- The Cruel Prince by Holly Black
- Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi
- A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Tahereh Mafi
- I am Still Alive by Kate Marshall (CDN)
- Dear Evan Hansen by Val Emmich
- Five Feet Apart by Rachael Lippincott
- Dry by Neal Shusterman

Hope you will read a few of these and vote! You can vote at school in the library. There is a ballot box near the YRCA display, or if you are offsite, you can email the librarians with your choice and we will put it in the ballot box. The more who vote the more interesting it will be to see who wins! I also listed the three I read up above. I got one of their critter bytes. It is an animal that you put on your I-Phone or I-Pad charger. I love mine so much! It is a turtle! There were a lot of animals that you could choose from. Here are some examples. Shark, Tiger, Bunny, and Hippo. But remember those are only a few of them! -Written by Ella Shultz

Student Council Fundraising Opportunity

Hello readers! I know that this Newsletter is getting a bit long but don't forget to support your HMS student council on Wednesday March 24, 2021 from 10:30 AM to 9:00 PM by going to the Panda Express (The one located at 3075 N. Sanders St. Helena, MT) and ordering some of your favorite foods! So how does this work and relate to STUCO? The last time I checked eating good food wasn't a Student Council fundraiser. Well you would be correct, but that is what is so incredible about this particular fundraising event! When ordering your food either show them a paper version of the flyer printed down below or type in the promo code 322762 if ordering online. By doing this you show the Panda Express that you are participating in the fundraiser, which will make it so that 20% of the profits made off of this event to be donated to our very own Student Council. This will allow for more funding to go into our Spirit Weeks, Dances, and other fun events all planned and funded by STUCO. We hope to see you there and have a wonderful day! - Written by Eva Skibicki



DON'T FORGET THE FUNDRAISER EVENT

Help Us Raise Money For: Helena Middle School Student Council

When	Where	How
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 10:30 AM to 9:00 PM	Panda Express located at: Custer & Sanders (Custer Landing) PX 3075 N. Sanders St. Helena, MT 59601 4064498898	In-Store: Show paper or digital version of flyer Online: Enter 322762 in the promo code box during online checkout at order.pandaexpress.com . Orders must be placed on the event day

20% of event sales will be donated to: Helena Middle School Student Council

Participating fundraiser guests are required to present a valid fundraiser flyer (paper copy or digital image) with each order to receive credit towards the fundraiser. Flyers may not be distributed inside or within the vicinity of the restaurant including, without limitation to, the restaurant parking lot before or during the fundraiser. Panda Restaurant Group reserves the right cancel any and all fundraiser events for any reason and/or withhold payment of associated donation, if the Panda Restaurant Group Fundraiser Guidelines are not followed.